

SAYS THE RAMBLING REPORTER

Being the Highlights of Fifteen Years' Experience in Gathering the News

HANK TINKHAM was probably the most thorough newspaper reporter I ever knew. For years he covered the Michigan state capital for a string of Michigan papers. When the legislature was not in session he did general assignments for the Grand Rapids Press, the journalistic giant of western Michigan, on which I was successively telegraph editor, sporting editor, political reporter, and city editor.

When Hank Tinkham went out on a story, the morning newspaper men who followed in his tracks couldn't find a shred of news that Hank had missed in his story of the previous afternoon.

Before I went to the Press the big copper strike was taking place in the upper peninsula. Hank was assigned to the story by the Press. There were reporters in Calumet from almost every metropolitan paper in the country.

The telegraph facilities in this mining town were not sufficient to handle effectively the load of newspaper copy that was filed every night during the strike. As a result copy from many special correspondents reached their papers late.

So newspaper men assigned to cover the strike adopted many and unusual means to insure early transmission of the copy they wrote.

But of all the methods I think Hank Tinkham's wins the prize.

Sends Dispatch
Tinkham learned from one of the strike leaders early one morning that the strikers' committee late that afternoon would make public their suggestions for a settlement of the walkout.

Tinkham realized that the wires would be flooded with copy that night and he took steps to protect his own paper.

Shortly after noon he went to the telegraph office and wrote the following dispatch:

"Grand Rapids Press,
"Grand Rapids, Mich.
"Important developments coming

this afternoon stop Am filing long meaningless message in order to hold wire.

He handed the dispatch to the telegrapher, together with his pocket dictionary.

"Shoot this wire out right away," said Hank, "and when you get through 'send' this dictionary to the same address."

The operator was dumfounded. But the dictionary was a telegram and had to be treated as such.

An hour later Hank returned with his story of the strike offer of the workers. The operator was still "sending" the dictionary. He was just starting in on the "B's." The wire to the Grand Rapids Press was open. As a result Hank's story was the first to go out from Calumet and the Press scooped the world on a mighty good news story of especial interest to western Michigan.

"Go up to the Garden of the Tullerles and find out who this American is who is questioning French men and women regarding their views on the League of Nations."

This was the assignment of the managing editor of the European edition of the Chicago Tribune one afternoon in July, 1922. I went. A pleasant-faced gentleman was stopping French pedestrians as they walked through the famous gardens. He was accompanied by an interpreter who informed the persons accosted that this gentleman was a prominent American statesman seeking the views of the French middle class on the league.

One look was enough for me to ascertain the identity of this "prominent American statesman."

It was Jimmy Cox, defeated candidate for the presidency of the United States.

McVea's "Howdy Band" will play at the Legion Auxiliary party in Legion hall February 14th.—Adv.

WILL ROGERS' FUNNY FILM TO BE SHOWN

"Mothers-in-Law" and Blanche Sweet Features Booked

Ruth Clifford, who will be seen Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 12 and 13, in the leading feminine role in the Preferred picture, "Mothers-in-Law," at the Torrance theatre, claims another right to fame besides being a popular film star. Hollywood, which houses more beautiful women than any other city in the world, has said she is the best dressed girl within its boundaries.

Because this lovely blonde is noted for wearing her clothes with a distinctive bearing and grace was one reason why B. P. Schulberg, producer of Preferred pictures, chose her to portray the luxury-loving, over-indulged daughter of the rich American business man in this Gasnier production.

In "Two Wagons—Both Covered" Will Rogers shows the world how those who grew tired of the lengthy trip across the plains in the days of the gold rush were able to turn around again and go home on a moment's notice. This two-reel Pathecomedie, which comes to the Torrance theatre Thursday and Friday, Feb. 14 and 15, is said to laughably show how the perils of the desert could be conquered through the medium of a tandem bicycle.

There have been many pictures heralded as possessing "all-star casts," but "In the Palace of the King," the period spectacle which comes to the Torrance theatre Thursday and Friday, boasts as near an "all-star" list of players as any, according to Emmett Flynn, who directed the picture.

Blanche Sweet, one of the most popular and best known actresses on the screen, is seen in the leading role, that of Dolores Mendoza. The part is the best since her recent return to the screen, according to critics.

SELFISH

Harold was late for Sunday school and the well-meaning minister kindly inquired the cause.

"I was going fishing, but father wouldn't let me," explained the boy.

"That's the right kind of father to have," replied the reverend gentleman. "Did he explain the reason why he would not let you go?"

"Yes, sir. He said there wasn't enough bait for two."

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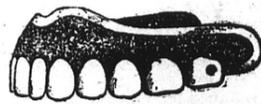
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